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Thirty-seventh session
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Agenda item 2
Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

Conclusions and recommendations of special procedures

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The Human Rights Council, in its decision 2/102, requested the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue their activities in accordance with all previous decisions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights and to update the relevant reports and studies.

2. The Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 2004/76, requested the Secretary-General to issue annually conclusions and recommendations of the special procedures so as to enable further discussion of their implementation. The Commission also requested the High Commissioner to continue to prepare a comprehensive and regularly updated electronic compilation of recommendations made by the special procedures by country, where such did not yet exist. In paragraph 29 of the annex to its resolution 65/281, the General Assembly provided that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) would continue to maintain information on special procedures in a comprehensive and easily accessible manner.

3. The Secretary-General draws the attention of the Human Rights Council to the conclusions and recommendations included in annual reports and the relevant addenda thereto, submitted by the special procedures to the Council in 2017 at its thirty-fourth, thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions.[1]

4. In 2017, special procedures mandate holders presented 137 reports to the Human Rights Council.

[1] Available on the OHCHR website at www.ohchr.org.

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I. Thirty-fourth session of the Human Rights Council

5. At the thirty-fourth session of the Human Rights Council, 21 special procedures mandate holders, including the holders of 15 thematic and 6 country mandates, presented their annual reports as follows:

- Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief
- Special Rapporteur on the right to food
- Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment
- Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context
- Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders
- Special Rapporteur on minority issues
- Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
- Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
- Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights
- Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights
- Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities
- Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights of persons with albinism
- Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy
- Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism
- Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence
- Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti
- Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran
- Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali
- Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar
- Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967

6. The Council heard an oral update from the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea and held an interactive dialogue with the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic.

7. Thematic special procedures mandate holders presented reports of their visits to 19 countries and territories. The Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights presented a report on his visit to the European Union. The Special Rapporteur on torture also presented a follow-up report on his mission to Mexico.

8. The Special Rapporteur on minority issues presented a report containing recommendations to the Forum on Minority Issues at its ninth session on the theme of minorities in situations of humanitarian crises (24 and 25 November 2016).

9. The special procedures also presented a report containing communications sent by all mandate holders between 1 June and 30 November 2016. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Special Rapporteur on torture presented reports containing observations on communications transmitted to Governments and replies received.

10. The Chair of the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures presented the report on the 23rd annual meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives, independent experts and the Chairs of working groups of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, including updated information on the special procedures. For the first time the report was accompanied by an addendum with facts and figures on the special procedures.

II. Thirty-fifth session of the Human Rights Council

11. At the thirty-fifth session of the Human Rights Council, 19 special procedures mandate holders, including the holders of 16 thematic mandates and three country mandates, presented their annual reports as follows:

- Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights
- Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health
- Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers
- Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons
- Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association
- Special Rapporteur on the right to education
- Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression
- Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions
- Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants
- Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children
- Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences
- Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity
- Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity
- Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice
- Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises
- Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
- Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus
- Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea
- Independent Expert on the enhancement of capacity-building and technical cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire in the field of human rights

12. The Council heard an oral update from the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar.

13. In addition, special procedures mandate holders reported on their visits to 29 countries and territories.

14. The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression also presented supplementary materials accompanying his annual report. In the main report he examined the role of State and non-State actors in the provision of Internet and telecommunications access (or "digital access") and their human rights obligations and responsibilities respectively. In the report, he provided guidance concerning the responsibility of digital access providers to respect freedom of expression online.

15. The Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises presented a study on best practices and how to improve on the effectiveness of cross-border cooperation between States, with respect to law enforcement on the issue of business and human rights.

16. The Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance presented a report on combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

17. The special procedures also presented their communications report containing communications sent by all mandate holders between 1 December 2016 and 28 February 2017. The Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions presented reports containing observations on communications transmitted to Governments and replies received.

III. Thirty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council

18. At the thirty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council, 17 special procedures mandate holders, including the holders of 13 thematic and 4 country mandates, presented their annual reports as follows:

- Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order
- Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes
- Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples
- Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination
- Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons
- Special Rapporteur on the right to development
- Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences
- Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence
- Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of hur rights
- Special Rappor n the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation
- Working Group on Arbitrary Detention
- Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances
- Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent
- Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia

- Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic
- Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia
- Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan.

19. Special procedures mandate holders also presented reports of their visits to 13 countries and territories. In addition, the Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances presented a follow-up report to its missions to Chile and Spain.

20. The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention presented a report containing its revised methods of work. The Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances presented a report on enforced disappearances in the context of migration. The Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence presented a global study on transitional justice.

21. The special procedures also presented their communications report, containing communications sent by all mandate holders between 1 March and 31 May 2017.